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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**U.S. ATTORNEY ANNOUNCES MULTIPLE IDENTITY
THEFT/MORTGAGE FRAUD INDICTMENTS**

PHILADELPHIA – United States Attorney Pat Meehan today announced the charging of 24 individuals in connection with six separate identity theft schemes, two of which involved mortgage fraud. In one indictment,¹ filed today, 10 defendants were charged with using the personal information of hundreds of bank customers to cash counterfeit checks and withdraw money from customer counts. In an unrelated case, 10 individuals were charged in a massive mortgage and identity fraud scheme that involved 180 properties in Philadelphia and could potentially cost the government and private mortgage lenders more than \$11,000,000. Joining Meehan in today's announcement were Joseph Clarke, Special Agent-in-Charge, H.U.D Office of Inspector General in Philadelphia; Kenneth Jones, Inspector-in-Charge, United States Postal Inspection Service, Philadelphia Division; Robert Sloma, Special Agent-in-Charge, U.S. Secret Service; and Jody Weis, Special Agent-in-Charge of the F.B.I., Philadelphia Field Office.

U.S. v White, et al (Filed Today)

The indictment alleges that from at least in or about February 2004 to at least in or about November 2005, Charles White and Allen Smith were the leaders of a team of 10 individuals who conspired to defraud banks by using the names, social security numbers, addresses, and dates of birth of potentially hundreds of customers of Commerce Bank, Wachovia Bank, PNC Bank, and M&T Bank and (1) cashing closed-account foreign checks at drive-through tellers' windows of Commerce Bank, (2) cashing counterfeit checks inside Wachovia Bank, and (3) withdrawing funds from customers' accounts inside Wachovia Bank, M&T Bank, and PNC Bank. They also committed the substantive acts of bank fraud and aggravated identity theft, defrauding the various banks. The scheme netted at least \$1 million.

"Identity theft is the fastest growing crime in America," said Meehan. "As this case demonstrates, criminals are becoming increasingly creative in their ability to steal someone's personal information and turn a profit."

¹ An indictment is an accusation. A defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

In order to defraud Commerce Bank, White and Smith purchased books of closed-account,² blank checks, drawn on foreign accounts (that is, accounts from banks other than Commerce Bank). They subsequently purchased photocopies of legitimate Commerce Bank checks that had been drafted by the Commerce Bank customers, and purchased from Michael Merin, then employed by Select Financial, Inc., a collection agency in Jenkintown, Pennsylvania, means of identification, such as social security numbers, addresses, and dates of birth, of the Commerce Bank customers who originally had drafted the checks.

White, his principal assistant Antoine Norman, and Smith, with his principal assistant Kevin Norris, thereafter used the last four digits of each customer's social security number to access the Commerce Bank customer's account using Commerce Bank's 1-800 automated phone system.³ Once they accessed the Commerce Bank customer's account, White and Smith could learn about the customer's available balance, and date, type, and amount of the customer's last transaction. With this information, White and Smith drafted and fraudulently endorsed the closed-account foreign checks, made payable to the Commerce Bank customers, in amounts less than or equal to the available balance of each particular customer.

White and Smith subsequently provided the drafted and fraudulently endorsed, closed-account checks to one or more of a team of "check-runners" who were instructed to cash these checks at a drive-through teller's window of a Commerce Bank branch in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania and elsewhere.⁴ These individuals included, at various times during the conspiracy, defendants Kelly Taylor, Terry Hughes, Lisa Smith, Rachel Lukovsky, and others known and unknown to the grand jury.

White and Smith further provided check-runners with a so-called "cheat-sheet," a small piece of paper upon which they wrote the individual Commerce Bank customer's name, date of birth, social security number, account number, and date, type, and amount of each customer's last transaction. They instructed the check-runners to consult this "cheat-sheet" in the event a Commerce Bank teller became curious about the legitimacy of the proposed transaction and asked the check-runner for some identifying information unique to the customer.

² A closed-account check is a check that once was associated with an open bank account but became worthless when the account later was closed.

³ In order to access his or her account using Commerce Bank's 1-800 automated telephone system, each customer must input a four-digit Personal Identification Number (PIN). The default PIN for each customer's account is the last four digits of the customer's social security number.

⁴ Commerce Bank does not require that foreign checks clear before allowing its tellers to cash them for customers. Instead, the tellers are permitted to cash foreign checks as long as there are sufficient funds in the customer's account to cover the amount of the check. In addition, the worthless nature of a closed-account foreign check would not be immediately obvious to the Commerce Bank teller. The worthless nature of a closed-account check only becomes patent when it is returned unpaid by the issuing, foreign bank.

Armed with the fraudulently drafted and endorsed closed-account check and the “cheat-sheet,” the check-runners approached the drive-through window of a Commerce Bank branch in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania and elsewhere and cashed the check, posing as the Commerce Bank customer to whom the check was made payable.

In order to defraud Wachovia Bank, M&T Bank, and PNC Bank, White and Smith provided check-runners, including defendants Terry Hughes and Lisa Smith, as well as others unknown to the grand jury, with counterfeit driver’s licenses of the bank customers, depicting a photograph of the check-runner, but listing the bank customer’s name, date of birth, and address. White and Smith obtained false photographic identification, including driver’s licenses, from defendant Akintunde Crawford, a/k/a “Raheem.” In order to cash checks or withdraw funds inside these banks, customers are required to present photographic identification.

White and Smith also provided check-runners Hughes, Lisa Smith, and others unknown to the grand jury, with counterfeit checks made payable to the customers. Using the false-identification provided to them, Hughes and Lisa Smith, posing as the customers, approached the teller’s window inside the bank and cashed the fraudulent checks. On some occasions, Hughes and Lisa Smith, using the false-identification and bank account number of the customer that White and Norman provided to them, withdrew money from a customer’s account at the teller’s window inside the bank.

If convicted of the conspiracy, each defendant faces a statutory maximum sentence of 5 years imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine, and a \$100 special assessment. If convicted of bank fraud, each defendant faces a statutory maximum sentence of 30 years imprisonment, a \$1,000,000 fine, and a special assessment of \$100 for each count. If convicted of aggravated identity theft, each defendant faces a statutory mandatory sentence of 2 years imprisonment, to be served consecutively to any other sentence imposed for the bank fraud or conspiracy.

INFORMATION REGARDING THE DEFENDANTS

NAME	ADDRESS	DATE OF BIRTH
CHARLES WHITE	Rupert Street Philadelphia, PA	3/5/1968
ALLEN SMITH	N. 12th Street Philadelphia, PA	4/4/1976
MICHAEL MERIN	Keswick Avenue Glenside, PA	8/8/1978
ANTOINE NORMAN	Rosehill Street Philadelphia, PA	5/4/1972
AKINTUNDE CRAWFORD	Parkside Avenue Philadelphia, PA	7/28/1972
KEVIN NORRIS	Central Avenue Cheltenham, PA	9/20/1982

NAME	ADDRESS	DATE OF BIRTH
KELLY TAYLOR	N. Hanna Street Lockhaven, PA	6/9/1971
LISA SMITH	Torresdale Avenue Philadelphia, PA	10/1/1959
TERRY HUGHES	White Pine Drive Middletown, PA	1/10/1986
RACHEL LUKOVSKY	Rennard Place Philadelphia, PA	6/26/1981

The case was investigated by the United States Postal Inspection Service and has been assigned to Assistant United States Attorney Michael J. Bresnick.

U.S. v Doan, Sirolli, et al (Unsealed Today)

The 18-count indictment charging 10 individuals in a massive mortgage fraud and identity fraud scheme. The fraud involved nearly 180 properties in Philadelphia, the vast majority of which will fall into foreclosure. The government and private mortgage lenders are at risk of losing over \$11,000,000 because of the fraud.

Self-described real estate investor, Mahn Huu Doan, a/k/a “Bruce Doan,” hit on a scheme to try to make money. He and his associates would purchase houses using false or borrowed identities. Doan managed to buy these houses with government insured loans. With the help of Trung Tam Dang, Doan made up false paper work – including false bank records, false W-2 forms, and false pay stubs – which he used to apply for these mortgages. Most of the mortgages came from a company called Encore Mortgage Services, Inc., which was owned by Vincent Sirolli. Participating in and profiting from the fraud, Sirolli and his employees – Dana Siciliano, a loan officer; June Kodiak, a loan originator; and Keith Lyon, the company’s Chief Operating Officer – processed the applications and got Doan the money he needed. The scheme worked, in part, because Ciriaco Gatta, a/k/a “Jack Gatta,” an appraiser, fraudulently inflated the appraisals on the houses. Those fraudulent appraisals allowed Doan, Sirolli, and the others to wring excess profits from the deals, profits the schemers used to keep the fraud going and to line their own pockets. At the closings on the deals, settlement agents Mary Diantonio and Anthony Giampietro prepared paperwork that falsely described the flow of money in the deals, thereby hiding the fraud from mortgage lenders and the government. Zu-Yun Kim, a/k/a “Andy Kim,” an associate of Doan’s, often posed as a buyer or seller at the closings, signing paper work using a false identity.

The defendants planned to hold on to the houses they purchased for a short time, and then re-sell or “flip” them for a profit. They were unable. Still, they had to pay the mortgages on the houses. They failed. As a result, nearly all of the houses will go into foreclosure.

“Foreclosures affect everyone in Philadelphia,” Meehan stated. “A recent study by The Reinvestment Fund estimates that, for every foreclosure within a block of your house and within

a year, your house will lose 1% of its value.” Meehan went on, “You can therefore imagine the impact that 180 foreclosures will have on our neighborhoods. If we are to keep our neighborhoods intact, we must stop the kind of fraud that happened here.”

INFORMATION REGARDING THE DEFENDANT(S)

NAME	ADDRESS	AGE
VINCENT SIROLI	Juniper Court, West Deptford, NJ	64 years old
MAHN HUU DOAN, a/k/a “Bruce Doan”	S. 72 nd Street, Philadelphia, PA	38 years old
CIRIACO GATTA, a/k/a “Jack Gatta”	Olympia Place, Philadelphia, PA	43 years old
ANTHONY GIAMPIETRO	Wayland Drive, Cherry Hill, NJ	52 years old
MARY DIANTONIO	Radcliff Court, Sicklerville, NJ	49 years old
DANA SICILIANO	S. 20 th Street, Philadelphia, PA	44 years old
JUNE KODIAK	Anaconda Road, Bensalem, PA	57 years old
KEITH LYON	Leesville Road, Jackson, NJ	43 years old
TRUNG TAM DANG	Mallard Place, Philadelphia, PA	36 years old
ZU-YUN KIM, a/k/a “Andy Kim”	Williamson Circle, Media, PA	27 years old

If convicted the defendants face maximum possible sentences of: Vincent Sirolli, 82 years imprisonment, 3 years of supervised release, and a \$1,500,000 fine; Bruce Doan, 42 years imprisonment, 3 years of supervised release, and a \$1,000,000 fine; Jack Gatta, 27 years imprisonment, 3 years of supervised release, and a \$750,000 fine; Anthony Giampietro, 82 years imprisonment, 3 years of supervised release, and a \$1,500,000 fine; Mary DiAntonio, 2 years imprisonment, 1 year of supervised release, and a \$250,000 fine; Dana Siciliano 42 years imprisonment, 3 years of supervised release, and a \$1,000,000 fine; June Kodiak 42 years imprisonment, 3 years of supervised release, and a \$1,000,000 fine; Keith Lyon 42 years imprisonment, 3 years of supervised release, and a \$1,000,000 fine; Trung Tam Dang 42 years

imprisonment, 3 years of supervised release, and a \$1,000,000 fine; Andy Kim 42 years imprisonment, 3 years of supervised release, and a \$1,000,000 fine.

The case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Inspector General and has been assigned to Assistant United States Attorneys Sarah L. Grieb and Michael S. Blume.

U.S. v Clark (Information Filed 7/11/06)

Defendant Kasimu Clark, together with Derrick Rooker, charged elsewhere, recruited and led a group of check-cashers who cashed fraudulent checks at banks by using the stolen identities of true bank account holders.

Clark recruited bank employees to provide names and account information of bank customers. Per instructions from Clark, Rooker caused pictures to be taken of all check-cashers and provided these photos to Clark, who then used the photos to create fraudulent identifications, such as driver's licenses, with stolen information regarding bank customers.

Clark distributed the fraudulent checks and the fraudulent identifications to Rooker with an agreement and understanding that the check-cashers would cash or attempt to cash the counterfeit checks at banks throughout the Eastern District of Pennsylvania and elsewhere by displaying the fraudulent identification when necessary. A check-casher was sometimes given more than one stolen identity to portray each day.

An individual designated by Rooker drove the group of check-cashers to banks from which account information and customer identities had been stolen. Only one check-casher went into a bank at a time. The check-cashers memorized the identifying information regarding the victim bank account holder.

Prior to the check-casher entering the bank, Rooker placed a call to Clark or the automated bank system of the individual bank to learn the account balance and check to see that there were no fraud alerts on the account. With the means of identification and personal and bank account information, the check-cashers entered the bank and pretended to be the victim bank customer in order to cash the stolen, counterfeit, and otherwise unauthorized checks at the banks and to make unauthorized withdrawals from the banks.

Through this scheme, the defendants attempted to steal more than \$1.2 million. To date, eight people, including the bank tellers who were providing the information, have been charged in this case.

In convicted, Clark faces a total maximum sentences of 244 years imprisonment (including a 14-year mandatory minimum sentence) and a \$2,750,000 fine.

INFORMATION REGARDING THE DEFENDANTS

NAME	ADDRESS	AGE OR DATE OF BIRTH
KASIMU CLARK	800 block of N. 29 th St. Philadelphia, PA	1/19/1973

This case was investigated by the U.S. Postal Inspection Service and the U.S. Secret Service and has been assigned to Assistant U.S. Attorney Susan L. Fields.

U.S. v Solomon (Indicted 5/09/06)

Between November 2003 and February, 2006, defendant Micah Solomon used false information to obtain fraudulent mortgages and generate fraudulent real estate sales based on those mortgages.

To qualify for a loan, at Solomon's direction a buyer would fraudulently state on loan applications that he or she worked at Solomon's company and made an inflated salary. Solomon's company would then verify the fraudulent employment. Solomon also used stolen identities on loan applications for real estate purchases. The fake buyers pretended to be someone with good credit, then qualified for the loan.

Mortgage lenders would then approve loan applications and mail and wire loan proceeds to the title agents handling the settlement transactions. Solomon was paid from the proceeds of the mortgage loans, fees and commissions each time a fraudulent loan was funded and the property went to settlement.

All the homes were 100% financed. The mortgages were not paid and the homes eventually went into foreclosure.

In addition, the indictment alleges that Solomon engaged in similar schemes involving cars, bank accounts, and credit lines.

In convicted, Solomon faces a total maximum sentence of 494 years imprisonment (including a 14-year mandatory minimum sentence) and a \$14,000,000 fine. To date, 10 defendants have been charged in this case.

INFORMATION REGARDING THE DEFENDANTS

NAME	ADDRESS	AGE OR DATE OF BIRTH
MICAH SOLOMON	Barclay Road Cheltenham, PA	3/2/73

This case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation in New Jersey and has been assigned to Assistant United States Attorney Susan L. Fields.

U.S. v Morgan (Information Filed 7/11/06)

The indictment alleges that from May 2004 to February 7, 2006, Brian Lee Morgan, a/k/a Judge Morgan, a/k/a Blue, produced and trafficked in counterfeit credit cards and false

identification documents. On February 7, 2006, Morgan was in possession of over 6,700 counterfeit and unauthorized credit card account numbers, and equipment for making counterfeit credit cards and identification documents, as well as three firearms.

If convicted, Morgan faces a maximum sentence of 100 years imprisonment, 3 years supervised release, a \$2,000,000 fine, and an \$800 special assessment.

INFORMATION REGARDING THE DEFENDANT

NAME	ADDRESS	AGE
Brian Lee Morgan, a/k/a Judge Morgan, a/k/a Blue	St. Malachy's Way Philadelphia, PA	47 years old

The case was investigated by United States Secret Service, and has been assigned to Assistant United States Attorney Sarah L. Grieb.

U.S. v Jones (Indictment Filed 7/20/06)

Gregory Jones, a/k/a "G," is charged with credit card and identity fraud. The indictment alleges that on May 25, 2006, Jones was producing counterfeit credit cards, including counterfeit Visa credit cards, possessed over 100 unauthorized credit and debit cards numbers and over 50 counterfeit credit cards, and possessed equipment for making counterfeit credit cards and counterfeit identification documents. Jones also possessed the means of identification of another person, that is the name of a true person, which he used in his identity and credit card fraud.

If convicted, Jones faces a maximum sentence of 50 years imprisonment, plus a mandatory two year sentence to run consecutive to any other sentence imposed, three years supervised release, a \$1,250,000 fine, and a \$500 special assessment.

INFORMATION REGARDING THE DEFENDANT

NAME	ADDRESS	AGE
Gregory Jones, a/k/a "G"	South 58 th Street Philadelphia, PA	44 years old

The case was investigated by United States Secret Service and the Federal Bureau of Investigation and has been assigned to Assistant United States Attorney Sarah L. Grieb.

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